

MINUTES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
January 8, 2015
1401 Recreation Way, CSC 80905

Board Members Present: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella

Alternates Present: Jason Rupinski, Bob Lally

CALL TO ORDER

Opening: Chair Hilaire called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

CITIZEN DISCUSSION

Acquisition of 2.27-acres of Property: John Demmon said that he supported Action Item #2, which is the acquisition of 2.27-acres of property from Richard Bratton and Mary Oldendorf as an addition to Garden of the Gods Park.

Rampart Park Disc Golf: Carol Olsen asked when the Rampart Park Disc Golf item will be on the agenda.

Chris Lieber, Parks Development Manager, said that the Rampart Park Disc Golf item will be on the February agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scot Hume made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2014 Board meeting. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella
Nays: None
Absent: None

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Legacy Loop Resolution of Support, Great Outdoors Colorado Grant Request**
Chris Lieber, Parks Development Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a resolution of support for a grant request for the Legacy Loop from the Great Outdoors Colorado. ([See presentation](#))

The Legacy Loop project is a grant-supported trail and park development project focused on expanding access to outdoor recreation, increasing trail connectivity, and improving park amenities. This project will improve the safety and multi-use functionality of the Pikes Peak Greenway, create a regionally significant east-west trail connection along the Rock Island trail corridor, and expand park offerings within historic Monument Valley Park. The Legacy Loop project will support downtown revitalization efforts by enhancing one of the most popular recreational amenities in the Pikes Peak Region.

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department submitted a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) 'Paths to Parks' Grant request in early 2014. GOCO received numerous applications from across Colorado and the Legacy Loop was not awarded a grant for the 2014 cycle. Subsequently, the City has

submitted a new concept paper for the Legacy Loop project and GOCO has invited the City to apply for a second round of grants. This Resolution of Support is for a \$1,000,000 dollar grant application to Great Outdoors Colorado. These grant dollars represent one of GOCO's largest recreation grants to date and are essential to completing the Legacy Loop project. Additional project funds are expected to come from the Greenway Foundation, the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) tax, the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF), and private donations.

Scot Hume made a motion to approve the resolution supporting a grant application for the Legacy Loop Trail Project with an amendment to include multiple access points. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella

Nays: None

Absent: None

2. Acquisition of 2.27-acres of Property from Richard Bratton and Mary Oldendorf as an addition to Garden of the Gods Park

Chris Lieber, Parks Development Manager, said that Richard Bratton and Mary Oldendorf have approached the Parks Department with an offer to sell their private property located adjacent to Garden of the Gods Park. The 2.27-acre parcel is located on Rampart Road at the western edge of Garden of the Gods Park. Acquisition of the property is consistent with the Garden of the Gods Master Plan. The property is offered to the City for a purchase price of \$7,000. ([See presentation](#)) An amount of \$8,500 is being requested to cover all closing costs.

Mina Liebert made a motion to approve to acquire the Bratton Property and the expenditure of \$8,500 from the TOPS Open Space Fund. Motion seconded by Charles Castle and carried unanimously.

Ayes: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Ron Ilgen, Alex Johnson, Mina Liebert, John Maynard, Hank Scarangella

Nays: None

Absent: None

STAFF REPORT

([See attachment](#))

- Safety in Parks
- Rock Island Trail Acquisition Update
- Status on Closure of Portions of High Drive
- Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Update
- Gimme Golf Concessionaire
- SCIP (Springs Community Improvement Projects) Bond Projects
- Media Information

BOARD BUSINESS

➤ **Board/Committee Reports and Concerns**

City Auditorium Task Force (Alex Johnson): There will be one more internal meeting prior to moving forward with reaching out to the community to form a Task Force.

Parks Department Calendar (Charles Castle): Requested to receive more calendars and the cost to print the calendars.

Art Commission (Jackie Hilaire): Art is currently being exhibited at the Airport. There is an opening on the Art Commission. The Committee will meet within the next two weeks.

Ute Valley Master Plan (Hank Scarangella): The master plan is progressing. On January 7th, there was a discussion regarding regular trails through the parks. The master plan is very challenging due to the diverse group of users (i.e. mountain bikers, pedestrians, walkers with dogs, etc.). The

next public meeting is scheduled on January 27th, 7:30 p.m. at Eagleview Middle School.

Labor Day Special Event (Ron Ilgen): Five Request for Proposals have been received. The City is currently in the process of selecting a vendor as well as negotiating funds with the City to have the event this year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

LEGACY LOOP TRAIL

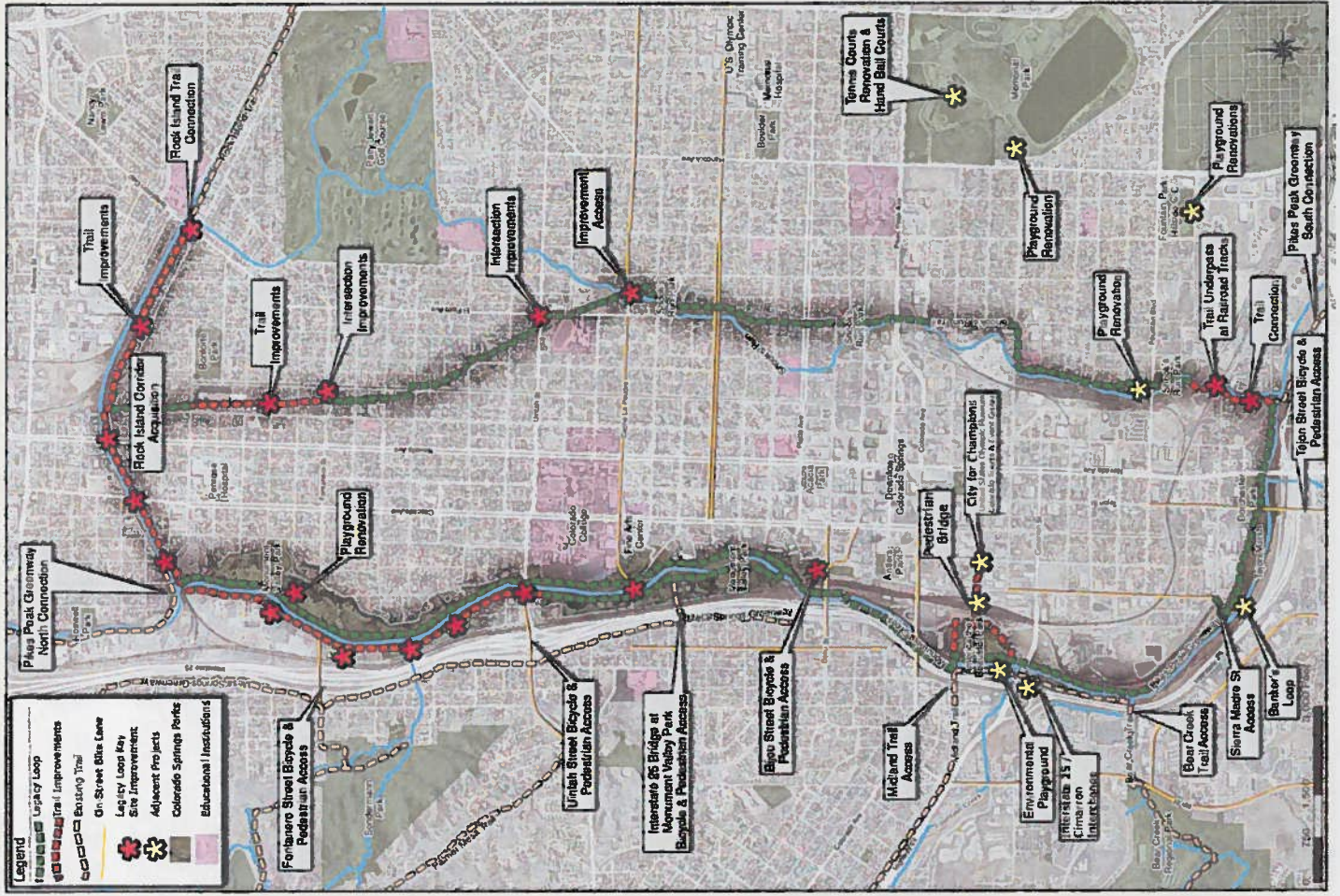
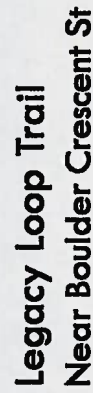
'PATHS TO PARKS' GRANT APPLICATION



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT AND PROJECT UPDATE

Colorado Springs City Council

January 8, 2015



Legacy Loop Trail

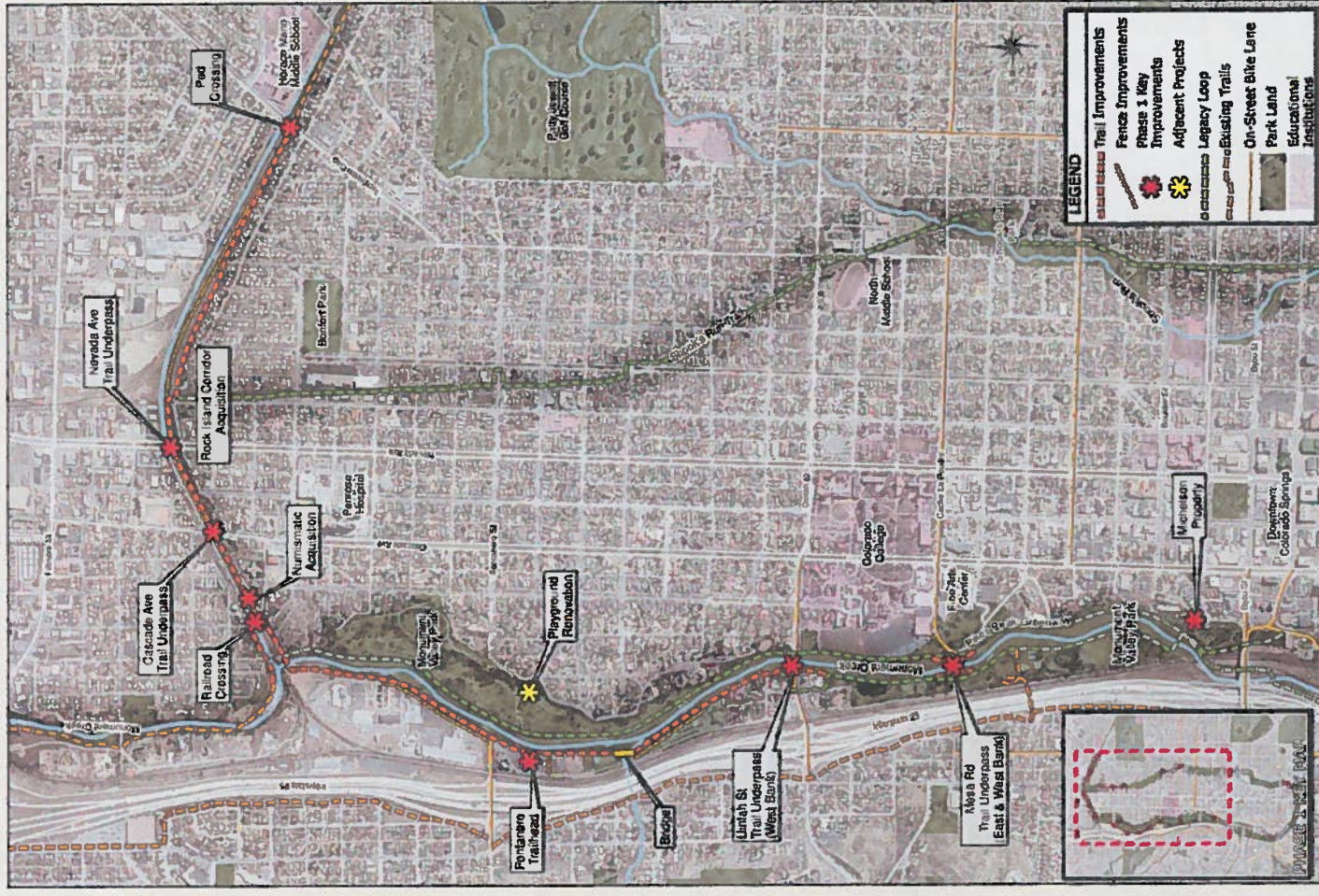
Phase One Project

Legacy Loop Project Goals :

- Leverage existing park & trail assets
- Create new and lasting recreational opportunities for our citizens
- Develop regionally significant park and trail connections
- Improve safety and access for youth and families
- Build on the legacy of General Palmer to support downtown development

COLORADO SPRINGS

Legacy Loop



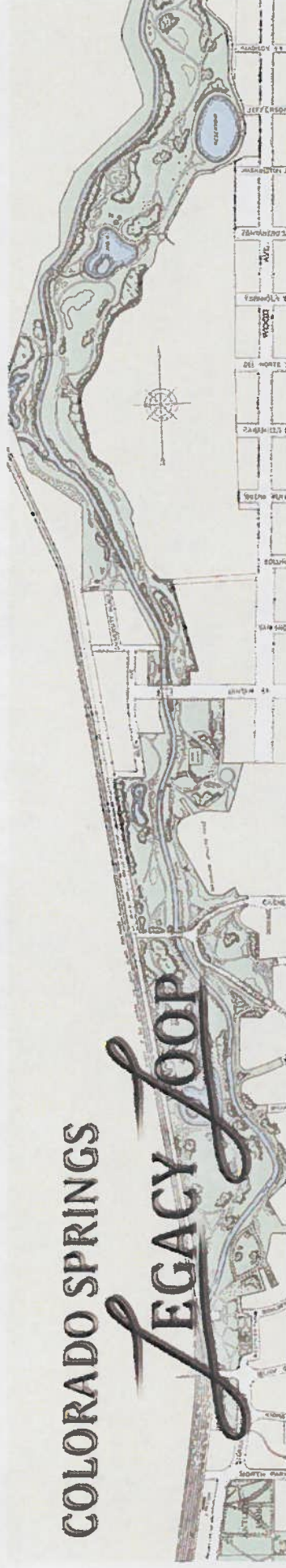
Legacy Loop Project Funding

- Great Outdoors Colorado 'Paths to Parks' Grant:
\$1,000,000
- State Trails Local Government Grant:
\$200,000 - \$350,000
 - Greenway Fund Donation:
\$350,000
 - Dedicated PPRTA 2 Funds:
\$1,250,000
 - TOPS Trail Development Funds:
\$1,715,000



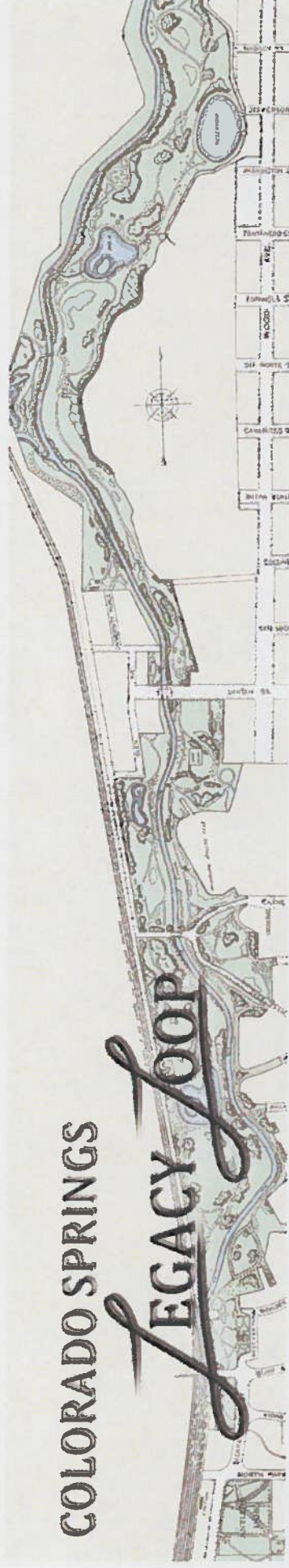
COLORADO SPRINGS

LEGACY LOOP



Legacy Loop by the Numbers

- 10,600' of new and improved multi-use trail
- 3 trail underpasses
- 1 trailhead and event space
- 1 bridge
- 3 downtown access points
- 1 major east-west trail connection
- \$350,000 in private donations
- Up to \$1,350,000 in grant funding



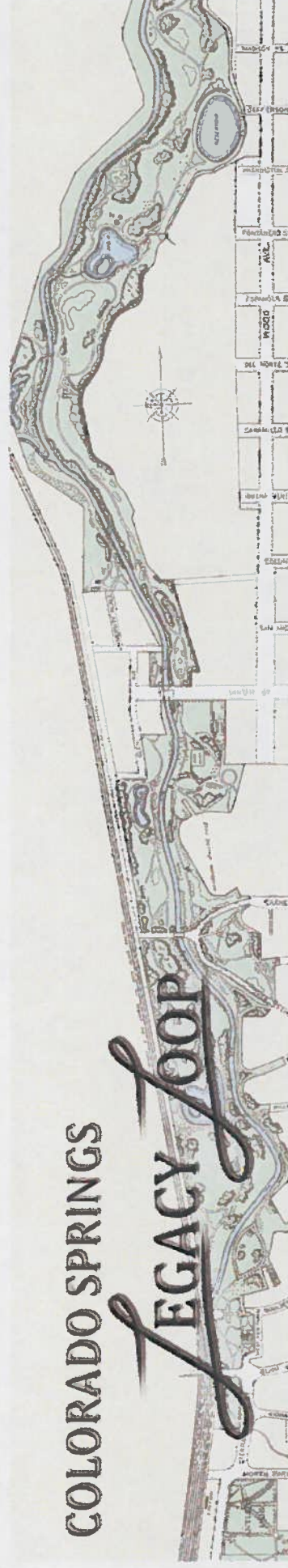
Legacy Loop Key Stakeholders

Greenway Fund
Downtown Partnership
Colorado Springs Utilities
Kids on Bikes (PopCycle Bridge)
Friends of MVP
ATAC and Walk and Wheel Collaborative
Old North End Neighborhood Association
Pikes Peak Road Runners
Jack Quinn's



COLORADO SPRINGS

LEGACY Loop



Legacy Loop Grant Information

Essential Grant Information

Due Date: March 4, 2015

Maximum Award: \$1,000,000

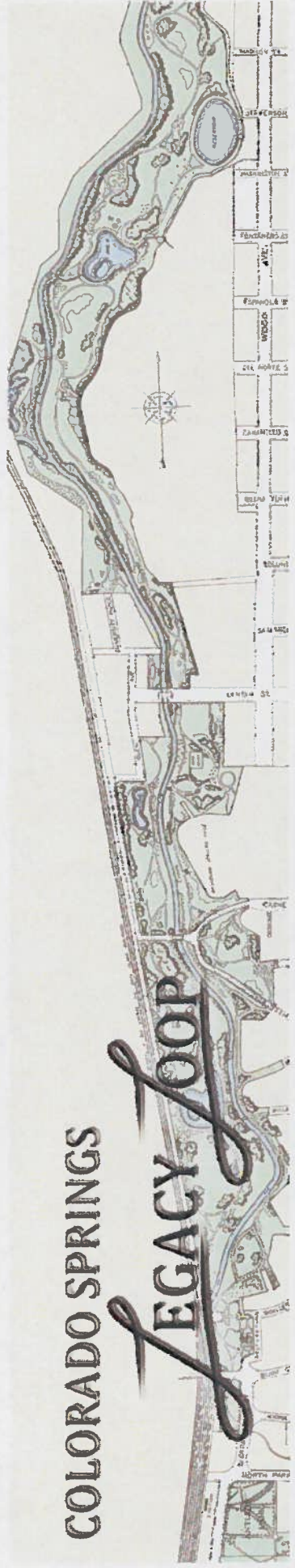
Available Funding: \$4,000,000

Statewide Requests: \$8,000,000+ (\$25 mil. in overall project costs)

Minimum Required Match: 10% Cash | 25% Overall

COLORADO SPRINGS

LEGACY LOOP

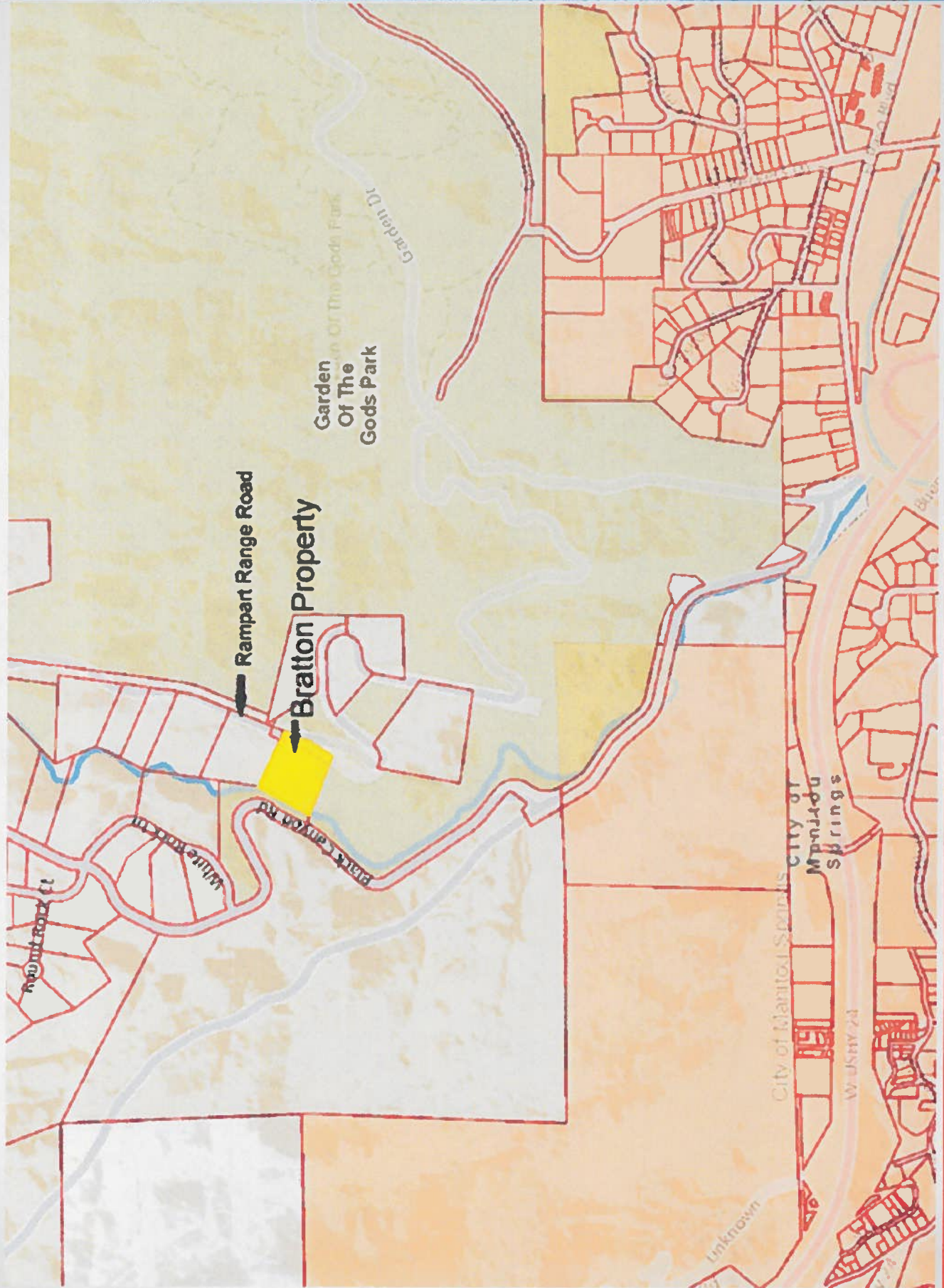


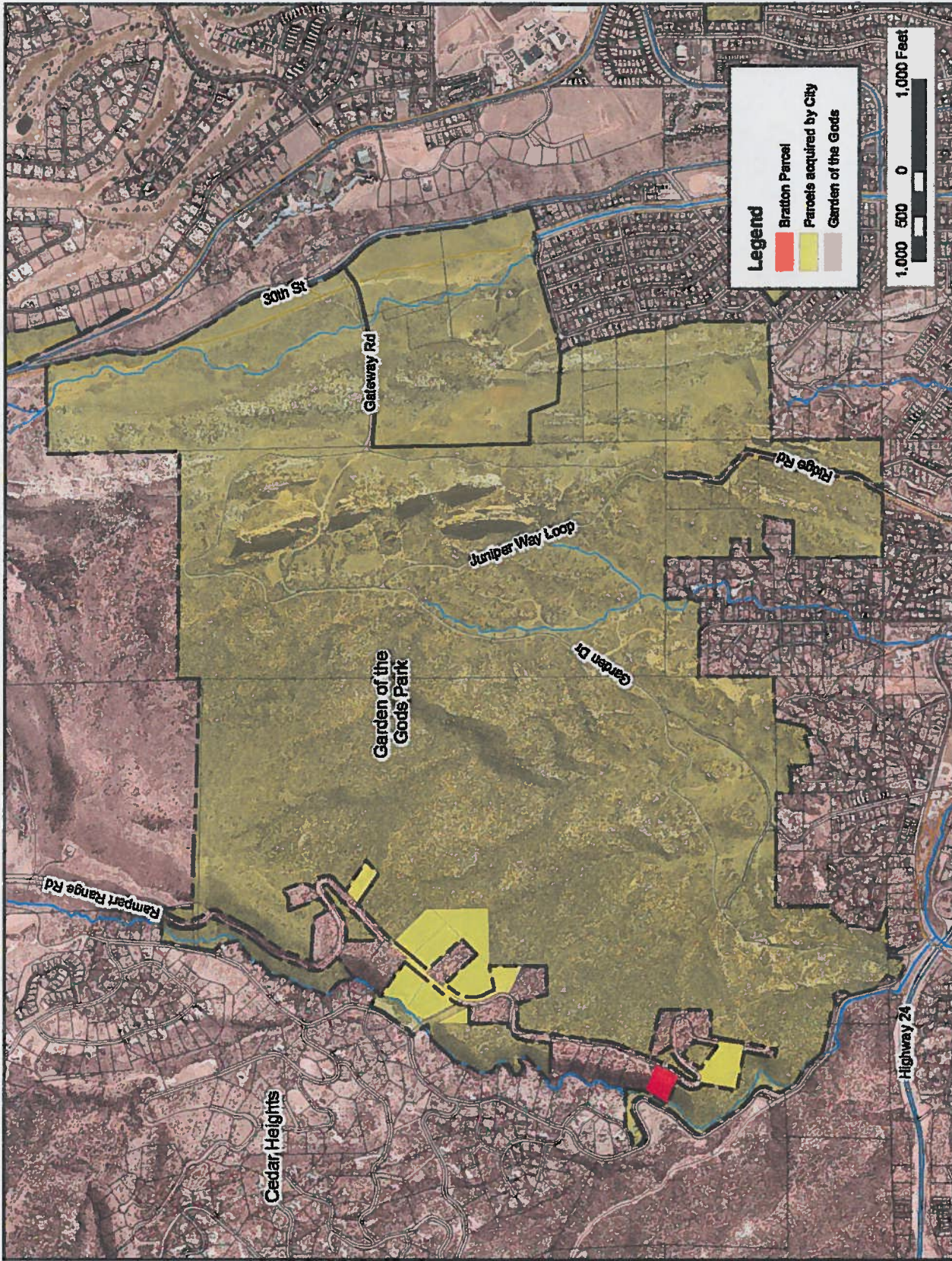
Garden of the Gods Back Drop Property: Bratton Parcel

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

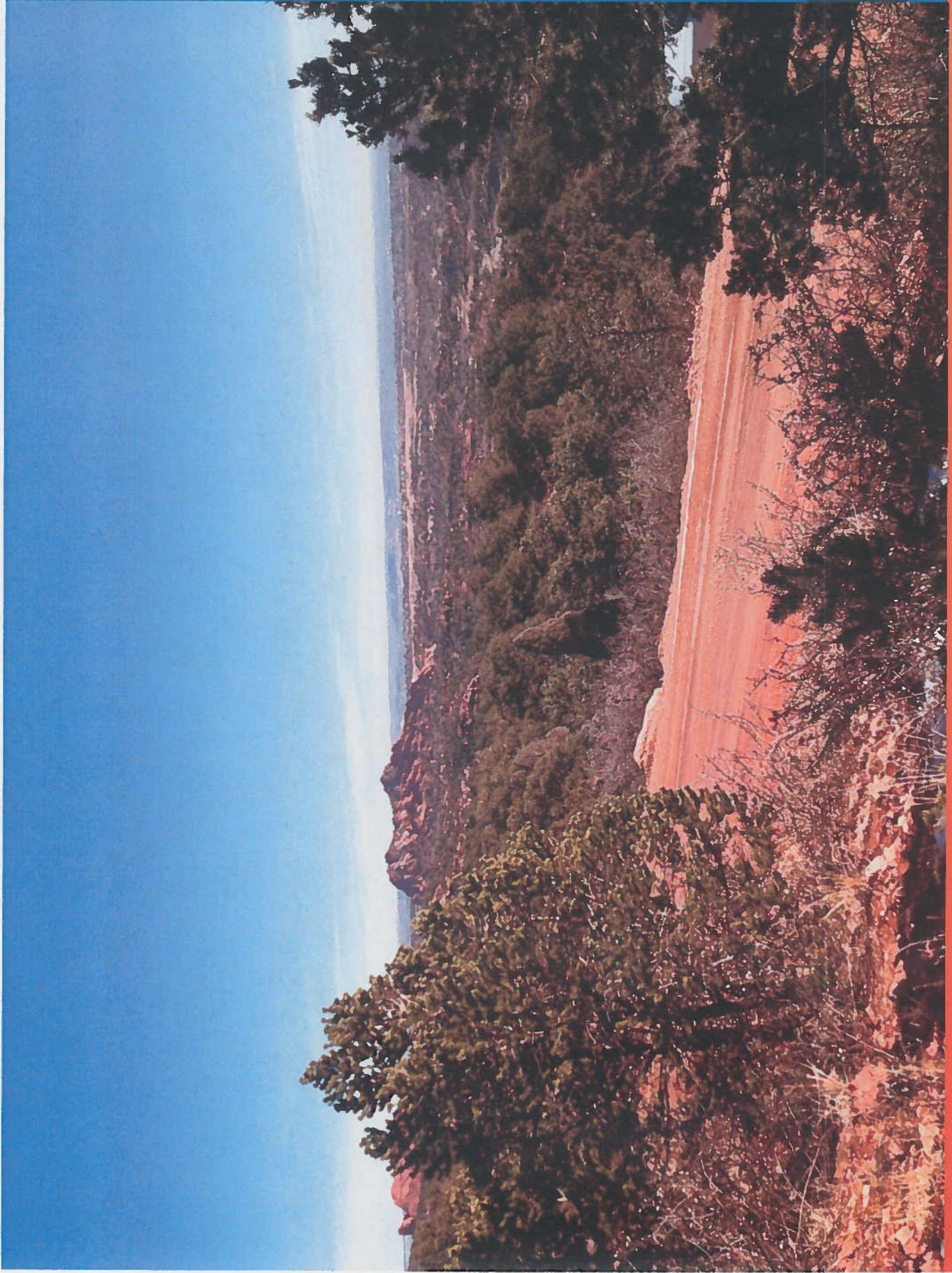
January 7, 2015

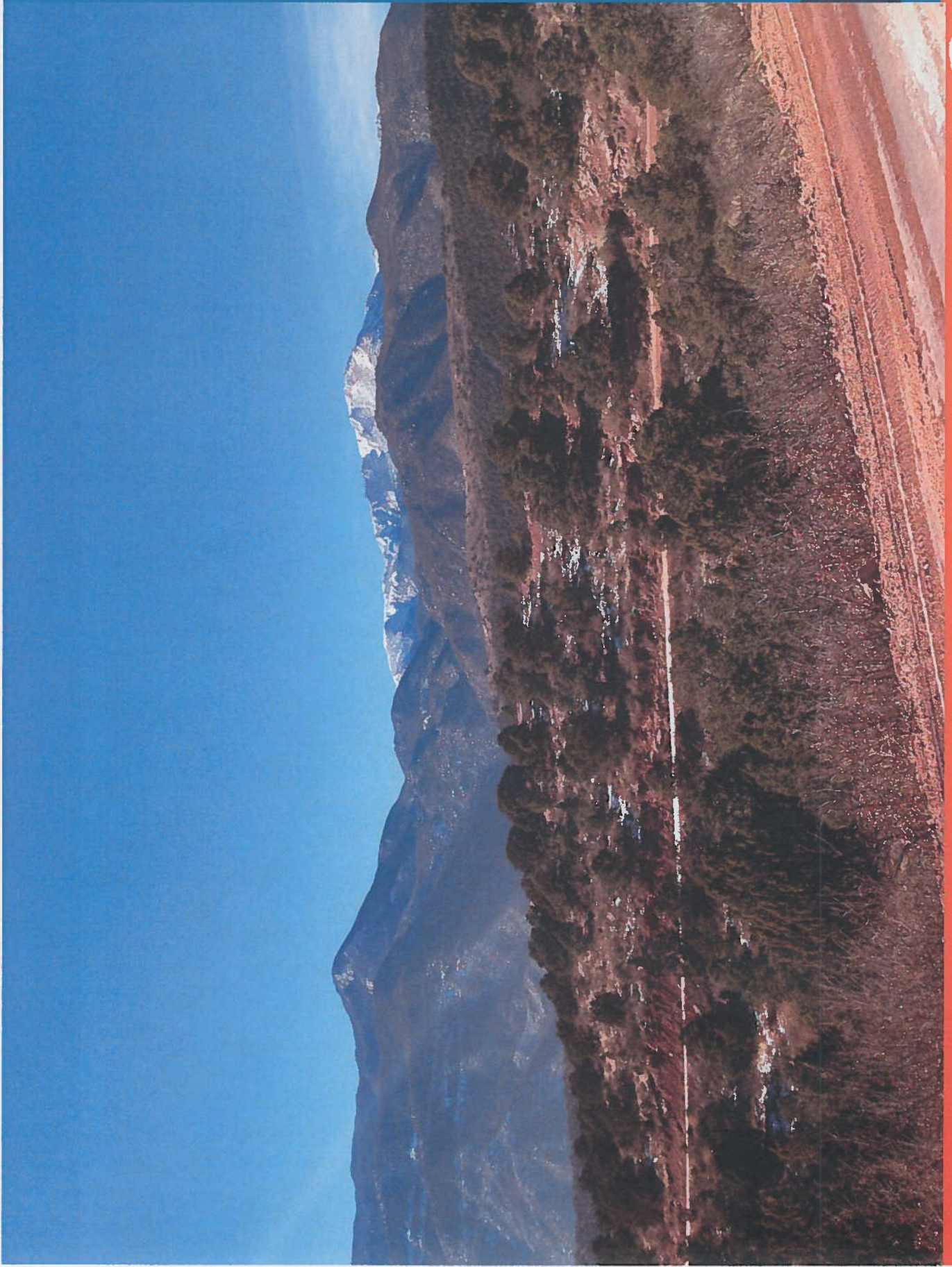
Chris Lieber







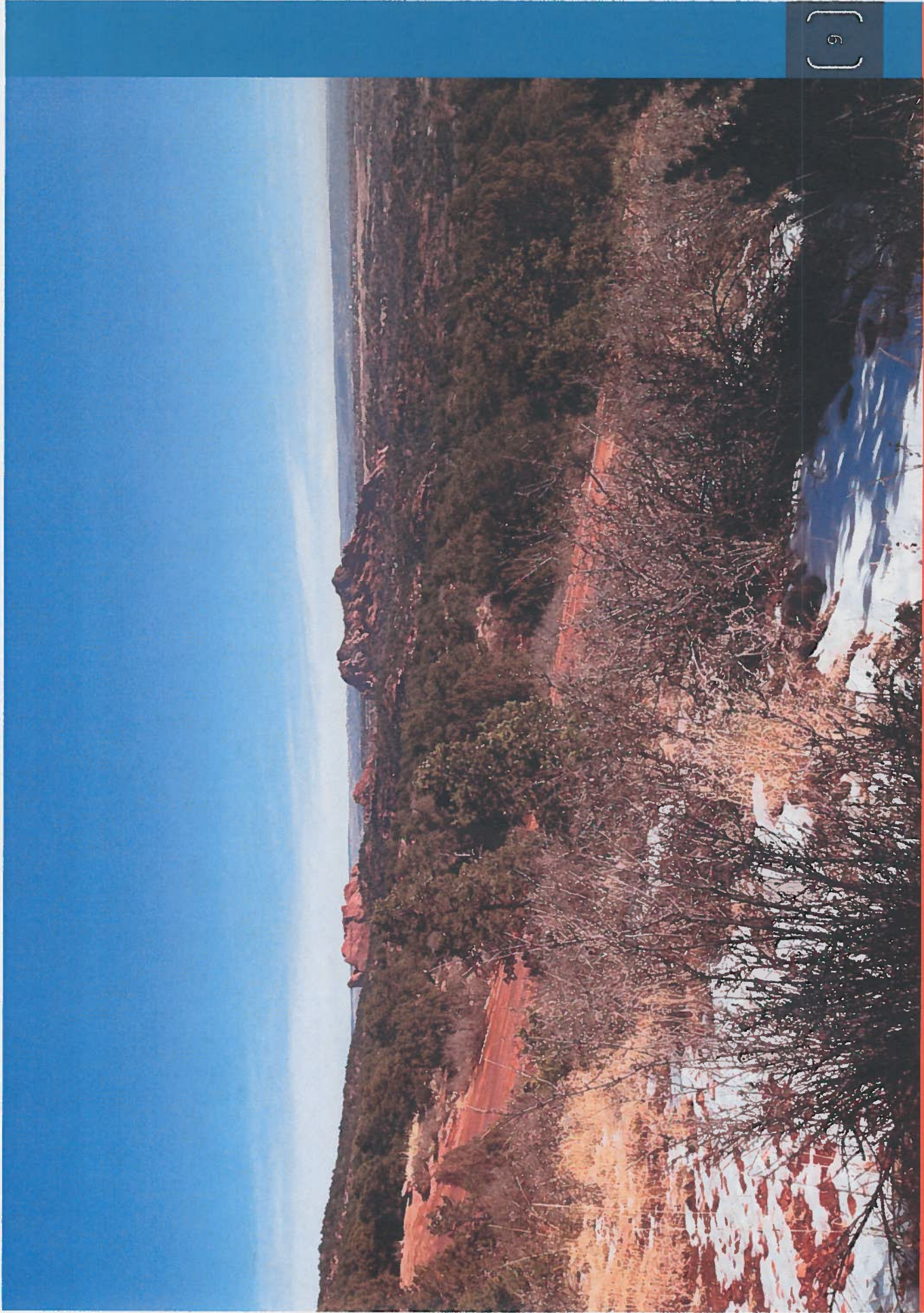




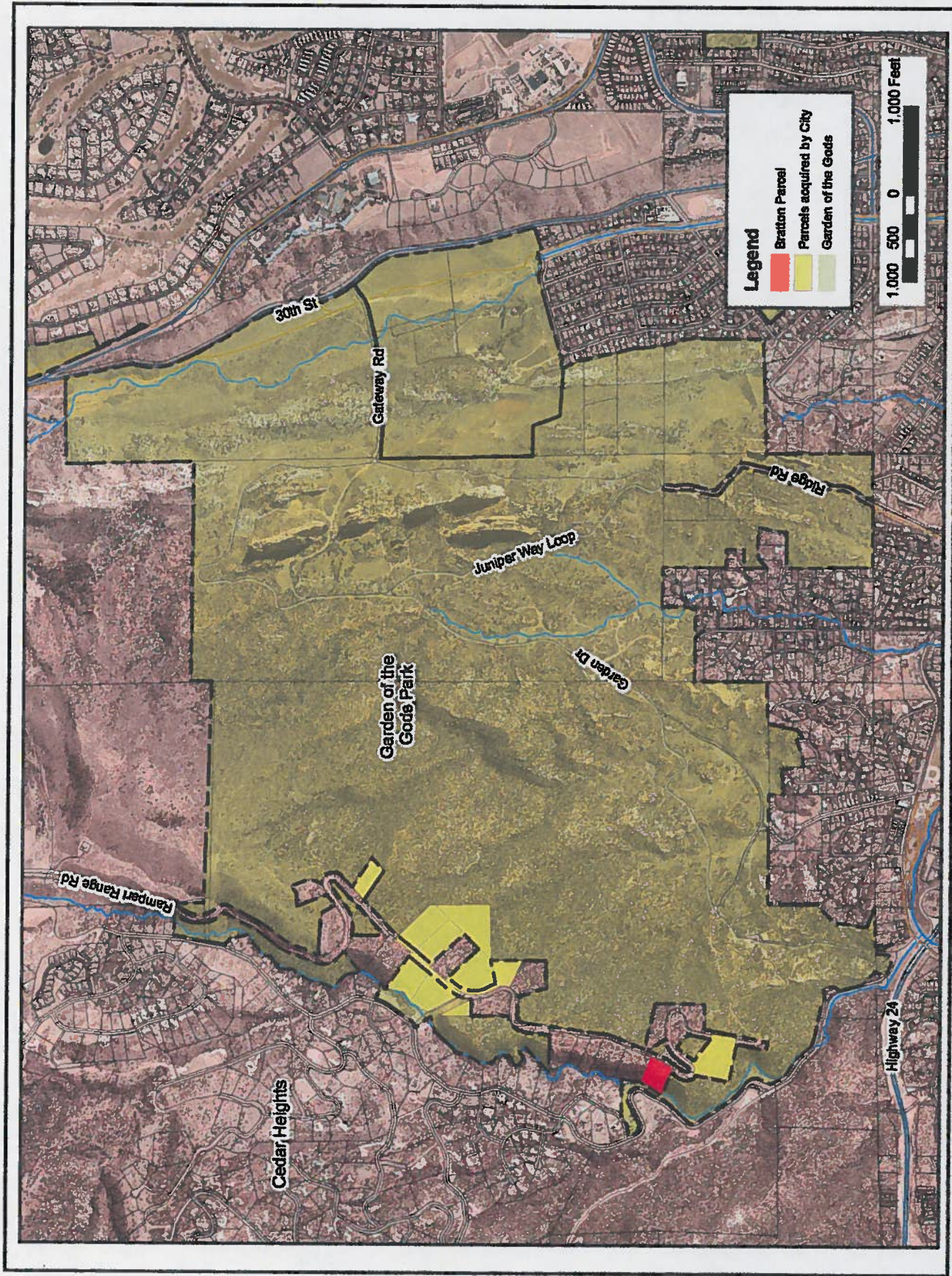


[7]









Bratton Property

- Property Owner(s): Richard Bratton and Mary Oldendorf
- 2.27 acres
- Purchase Price: \$7,000
- Estimated Due Diligence and Closing Costs: >\$1,500
- Proposed Funding Source: TOPS Open Space (Small Projects/Acquisition Fund)
- Estimated Annual Maintenance Costs: \$152.00

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – January 8, 2015

STAFF REPORT

➤ Safety in Parks

The Park Advisory Board has requested a briefing on the safe use of our parks with a specific interest in the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail and downtown parks and particularly how the activities of the homeless population is managed. Park staff has requested a recap of illegal activities that occurred in our parks in 2014. Police Department analysts are now compiling that information and will have that information available for the February meeting. It is planned to also have in attendance Lt. Jeff Jensen of the Gold Hill Division and an officer of the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT Team) to brief the board on their activities and protocol on managing the homeless populations.

Bear Creek Canon Caretaker's House: In response to Board member Maynard's question regarding the Caretaker's House at Bear Creek Canon about partnering with local non-profits to make it habitable and place someone in the house, Kurt Schroeder, Manager of Park Operations and Development, said that he will look into it and provide a report at the February meeting.

➤ Rock Island Trail Acquisition Update

A key missing gap in the City's trail system is located along the Rock Island Trail corridor, between the Pikes Peak Greenway and Templeton Gap Road. This trail corridor was first identified as a priority for completion in the City's 1983 Trails Master Plan. The trail corridor is currently identified in numerous community plans including the 2015 Park System Master Plan, the Legacy Loop, the Downtown Action Plan, and the City's Bike Plan. To advance this project, Staff has been pursuing negotiations with the Union Pacific Railroad to acquire property from the former Chicago-Rock Island Rail Line for the development of the Rock Island Trail. Based upon favorable negotiations, and pending satisfactory due diligence findings, staff anticipates acquisition of the corridor in mid-2015. This acquisition timeline will enable construction of this missing trail segment of the Rock Island Trail, from the Pikes Peak Greenway to Templeton Gap Road, in early 2016.

➤ Status on Closure of Portion of High Drive

High Drive Flood Damage Updated

The September 2013 floods caused significant damage to several locations in the Parks system, including High Drive. Flood damage along the 3.5 mile gravel mountain road caused High Drive to be closed to all recreational use for several months. The closure was based on the flood damage on the roadway and the flood damage to the USFS trail system. The Department partnered with the Forest Service and Colorado Springs Utilities to restrict access to High Drive and the affected trails leading through USFS lands to the CSU managed Jones Park the area over concerns for public safety; the trail damage was severe in many areas. In the spring of 2014 the USFS trail damage was assessed and major problem spots repaired. Immediately following, the Parks Department worked to open two segments of High Drive for non-motorized recreational use – From North Cheyenne Cañon Park (the parking lot above Helen Hunt Falls) to the summit of High Drive and the segment from Bear Creek Road at the High Drive caretaker's house uphill to the Trail 666. The segment from Trail 666 to the summit of High Drive remained closed because of the flood damage.

High Drive was identified as a FEMA Public Assistance eligible site. The FEMA funds will restore High Drive to pre-storm conditions and there will be some additional mitigation money for a project next summer to improve the drainage system and create a regional sediment trap to protect Bear Creek from sediment coming from the roadway. Total funding is over \$800,000 between the repair work and mitigation work.

Sun Construction was hired to perform the flood damage repair work this fall and winter. The timing of the work was driven by a desire to avoid the monsoon season, recreational peak use and the spawning of the Greenback Cutthroat Trout. The repair work is approximately 45% complete as of December 31, 2014. The two significant washouts have been repaired, along with rough grading

along 2.5 miles of High Drive. Currently the contractor is on a weather delay due to our recent frigid temperatures and snowfall. The mitigation construction is scheduled for the summer of 2015.

Non-Motorized Recreational Access

At this point recreational use will be limited to non-motorized use (hiking, cycling, and equestrian use) once the FEMA repair projects are completed. The Parks Department is working with the Forest Service lead NEPA process in the Bear Creek Watershed and will restrict motorized access while the NEPA process is ongoing while the area is in study.

High Drive follows Greenback Cutthroat Trout Habitat within Bear Creek for ¾ of a mile before climbing the hillside, leading away from the creek. Once the NEPA decision is approved, the mitigation efforts to reduce impacts to the creek and improvements to the trout habitat can commence. The Parks Department will continue to conduct their best effort to be good stewards of the endangered Greenback Cutthroat Trout and be good partners with the Forest Service through the project.

High Drive was originally closed to motorized use a few years ago because of the discovery of the Greenback Cutthroat Trout. The Forest Service and Colorado Springs Utilities were sued by the Center for Biologic Diversity regarding the motorized trail use in the Bear Creek Watershed. To address the issues and initiate a plan to move recreational trails out of the Bear Creek Watershed, the Forest Service began an Environmental Assessment and NEPA process. The plans are close to completion and the preferred alternative of the plan should be released for public comment in the first quarter of 2015. There is a possibility that the preferred alternative may not allow motorized use in the Bear Creek Watershed, thus keeping High Drive only open for non-motorized recreational use and emergency/administrative vehicular use only.

➤ **Buffalo Solders Memorial Update**

[\(See attachment\)](#)

➤ **Gimme Golf Concessionaire**

Both Patty Jewett and Valley Hi Golf Courses will have the same concessionaire; Gimme Golf.

➤ **SCIP (Springs Community Improvement Projects) Bond Projects**

Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, provided a brief update regarding the Mayor's Community Forums, City's backlogged capital improvement projects, which includes the Parks Department's projects (\$10 million), and a potential reissuance of the SCIP bond through the April 2015 election.

There was a consensus by the Board to send a support letter for reissuing the SCIP bond to City Council.

➤ **Media Information**

Articles from the Gazette

- "Hikers set for reopening of Manitou Incline today", December 5, 2014
- "Famed highway attracts crowds – Pikes Peak road breaks records", December 6, 2014
- "Climbers back on Incline – Reopening of the overhauled trail draws familiar crowd", December 6, 2014
- "Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum ready to reveal a colorful new look", December 12, 2014
- "Your Viewpoint: Bike trail system benefits", December 16, 2014
- "Museum inspired to chronicle our home", December 19, 2014
- "Hometown hero wows Acacia crowd – Smiling Olympian helps young skaters", December 21, 2014
- "Valley Hi gets a GIMMIE for the Pro Shop", December 23, 2014
- "Valley Hi Golf Course will be under new management in 2015", December 24, 2014
- "Museum reworks medical exhibit – 'Ambitious' plan closes it for a year", December 27, 2014

■ **Articles from Colorado Spring Business Journal**

- "Valley Hi gets a GIMMIE for the Pro Shop", December 24, 2014

■ **Articles from Colorado Springs Independent**

- "A walk in the park? Maybe not", December 8, 2014.
- "Yes, it's asbestos - Contamination at America the Beautiful Park will delay improvements by six months", December 10, 2014
- "Pioneers Museum dresses up with a light show", December 12, 2014
- "Update: Pioneers Museum dresses up with a light show", December 19, 2014

■ **Article from KKTV**

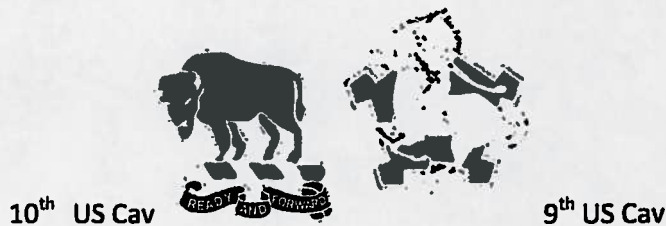
- "Incline Reopens Friday", December, 5, 2014

■ **Article from KOAA**

- "Flood Mitigation Projects to Start Monday in Cheyenne Cañon", December 8, 2014
- "Valley Hi gets a GIMMIE for Christmas", December 23, 2014

■ **Articles from KRDO**

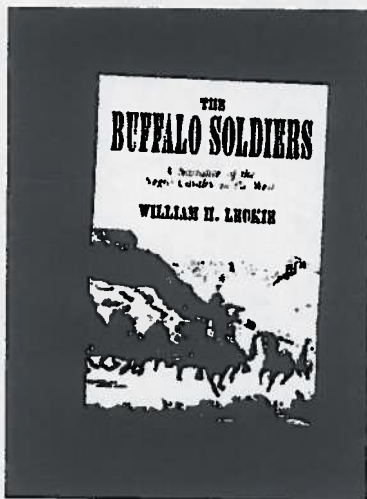
- "FEMA funded flood repair projects to begin in Colo. Springs", December 8, 2014



UPDATE FOR PARK and REC BOARD – January 8, 2015, 7:30 (PUBLIC COMMENTS, 3 minutes)

Since our last meeting, May 8, 2014, I am providing the follow update as a public record:

- Committee of 11 citizens (US Army, US Air Force, US Marines, and spouse) meet monthly, two Buffalo Soldiers experts providing historical guidance
- Local artist (Rod Mench, former US Army) providing technical and fundraising support
- Project completion date now July 25, 2016, 150th anniversary of the Buffalo Soldier congressional authorization and Buffalo Soldiers Day
- Establish fundraiser websites in collaboration with the Pikes Peak Community Foundation
- Fundraiser Dinner will be Saturday, March 14, 6-9 pm, Antler Hilton Hotel, CS, CO
- Western style show and fundraiser scheduled for July 25, 2015, 2-6 pm, Iron Springs Chateau, Manitou Springs
- Working with two landscape architects to examine city building requirements



(1986) Primary Ref



Memorial Option (old Colorado)